

**CONFIDENTIAL**

23 November 1959

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD****SUBJECT:** Visit to [redacted] Akron, Ohio

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1. On 18 November the undersigned visited [redacted] at the invitation of [redacted] of Mr. Bissell's Staff. [redacted] of Goodyear had arranged a day long informal presentation of [redacted] fields of activity for [redacted]. One of the subjects discussed was the [redacted] high altitude blimp proposal.

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2. [redacted] personnel that participated in the presentation were Mr. Richardson, a Vice-President, and engineers Don Marco, Bruce Bain, Charles Lamhart and Dr. Ross. The projects discussed were (a) a classified project of [redacted] (b) an inflatable 25 foot focal length camera; (c) a high altitude blimp; (d) delivery of personnel by missile and recovery by in-plateplane; (e) drone aircraft that are inflatable; (f) a small light-weight teletyper; (g) high resolution radar; (h) re-entry drogue balloon to replace drogue parachutes; (i) ablative materials; (j) silent aircraft, both muffled and steam powered; (k) solar powered aircraft.

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3. The high altitude blimp was discussed only briefly. It is a flying wing shaped, inflatable aircraft of enormous dimensions. Made of two ounce fabric powered by two reciprocating, hydrogen fueled engines, propeller driven, it would combine aerodynamic and static lift to obtain an altitude capability of 100,000 feet above mean sea level. The development program outlined was estimated to cost \$550,000 for a six months study program and another 18 months effort to result in two vehicles would cost 5 mega-bucks. [redacted] is attempting to interest the Army in one version of this aircraft without much apparent success. [redacted] stated that he was interested in a vehicle that could remain on station at very high altitude for extended periods. The proposed [redacted] aircraft would require a take-off roll distance; Mr. [redacted] comment was that an aircraft with a 100 yard wingspan would tax the skill of a pilot and a balloon type, lighter-than-air take-off might be more applicable. These comments ended the discussion of blimps.

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**File: Balloon, Powered****CONFIDENTIAL**

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